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Former Employee of Los Alamos Physical Therapy Pleads Guilty to Stealing \$160,000 from the Business

SANTA FE – A former employee of Jemez Physical Therapy in Los Alamos who stole over \$160,000 to support her gambling addiction pleaded guilty to two counts each of embezzlement and tax evasion.

Rebecca Serrano, also known as Becky Serrano, 46, of Espanola, was ordered to pay nearly \$165,000 in restitution and back taxes by State District Judge Michael Vigil on Monday. Judge Vigil placed her on five years' probation and ordered her to stay away from casinos or gambling establishments, and seek counseling for gambling addiction.

In March, a Santa Fe grand jury indicted Serrano on four counts of embezzlement and four counts of tax evasion for stealing over \$160,000 from Jemez Physical Therapy while she worked there from 2005 through 2008.

Serrano embezzled funds utilizing fraudulent check schemes through the company bank accounts. She issued herself unauthorized employee advances and created checks to be issued to health insurance companies and other valid vendors which were all converted to Serrano's benefit upon deposit into her bank account. Serrano also misdirected company deposits to credit the employee advance account that she was liable for.

The Taxation and Revenue Department's Tax Fraud Investigations Division assisted the Los Alamos Police Department in unraveling Serrano's financial scheme.